



KANSAS CITY STS. COSMAS & DAMIAN GUILD

A CHARTERED GUILD of the Catholic Medical Association

April 26, 2016

Dear Members of the Kansas Legislature:

The Kansas City Guild of the Catholic Medical Association strongly endorses Simon's Law, Kansas Senate Bill 437.

Simon's Law is designed to protect the most vulnerable patients we are entrusted to serve as Catholic physicians and other healthcare providers. Simon's Law requires parental and/or guardian written consent for DNR or withdrawal of other life preserving treatment, hydration or nutrition for those 18 or younger.

As an organization loyal to the Magisterium of the Roman Catholic Church, we believe that Simon's Law is consistent with longstanding Catholic traditions of healthcare. Fundamentally, Simon's Law recognizes both the sacredness of life and the primary role parents have in caring for a child.

As a community of physicians, we believe Simon's Law also represents the right practice of medicine. Medical facilities or practitioners cannot and should not determine that a patient's life is no longer deserving of medical care. DNR orders can be too broadly interpreted and used to hasten death. Simon's Law embodies the most fundamental principles of medical ethics: beneficence and *primum non nocere* (first, do no harm).

The Guild applauds Kansans For Life for their dedication to Simon's Law, as well as other medical societies including the American College of Pediatricians for their support of the law.

May God bless your work on behalf of the citizens of the State of Kansas.

Randal Brown, MD
President

Samuel Caughron, MD
Immediate Past President